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**Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter 20-March-2025**

1 message

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Mon, Mar 17, 2025 at 4:59 AM

Reply-To: kiwanisbrantford@gmail.com

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[View this email in your browser](#)**A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER from and about****THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANTFORD**

Meeting at the Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre:  
Every Thursday at 12:00 noon

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**Current Membership – 43**

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**E.C. & C. District*****Governor***Pamela Rodney White  
KC of Constant Spring***Governor Elect***Cynthina Blackman  
KC of Pride of Barbados***Immediate Past Governor***John Chave  
KC of Barrie***Secretary/Treasurer***

Jim Steele

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**PROGRAM FOR MARCH 20, 2025**

50th Anniversary of the Metric System Implementation

**HEAD TABLE**President Nancy Thompson, Guest Speaker Bob Saunders,  
Funmaster Pallo Sahota, Thanker Jim Steele**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, March 27 – “All Hands on Deck!”

Thursday, April 3 – Anne Marie Peirce, Brantford Community  
Foundation, Vital Signs Report

Thursday, April 10 – Aktion Club (Interclub Meeting)

KC of Brantford

*Division Lt. Governor*

Angel Vieth

KC of Kitchener-Waterloo

Club Officers

*President*

Nancy Thompson

*Past President*

Alfred Hauk

*President-Elect*

Maureen Henry

*Treasurer*

Jim Steele

*Secretary*

Dave Lewis

Club Directors

*2 Year Term*

Ross Pope

Karen Adams

Joanne Murray

*1 Year Term*

Randy MacKenzie

Leo Vos

Bob Wade

Thursday, April 17 – Brian Wood, Bell Homestead

Thursday, April 24 – National Volunteer Week

## UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

March 17th: Pasta night at Piper Arms. See you all there.

June: Dinner and music night at Brantford Golf and Country club (date to be confirmed)

August 9th: Family potluck/picnic

September 13th: 2:00 PM Port Dover play and dinner ("Here on the flight path" Norm Foster")

## KIWANIS CONVENTIONS

Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention – Niagara Falls, May 29 to 31, 2025

Kiwanis International Convention – Pittsburgh, June 25 to 28-2025

## BIRTHDAYS

Judy Lillico – Birthday – March 19

Paul Simon – Birthday – March 19

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

None

## ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED

Jim Steele – Joined – March 17

## EDUCATIONAL SPOT

Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children. Kiwanis strives to be a positive influence in communities worldwide — so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"If we did all the things we are capable of doing we would literally astound ourselves." – Thomas Alva Edison

**To view the highlights of last week's meeting,  
please page down.**

**Last Week's Meeting Highlights**



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# Highlights of the Thursday, 13 March, 2025 Weekly Meeting

President Nancy, welcomed all members and Guests: Jim Turnbull, Guest Speaker: Pam MacDonald & Tony Rockingham (Husband).



DST Jim Steele spoke of the passing of a long term member of our Club. Bob Johnson. He recall several times where Bob made a professional and personal impact on many of us. Jim mention the fun times we had at events relating to the Aktion Club where he was known as Bob #2 (We have several Bobs) and the summer BBQ and swimming at Bob's pool, he was a 10 year treasure for our Club and held several Kiwanis positions in EC&C and KI over his long and productive membership. He will be sorely

missed.

Phil Hoekstra organized the 50/50 draw, with Jim Steele and Bob Wade holding the potential winning tickets, but unfortunately they did not draw the Joker. The pot builds.



Funmaster/Education – Funmaster: Randy MacKenzie started with some one-liners that he dug up from copies of Readers Digest.

- A policeman spotted an elderly lady knitting while driving. "Pullover!" he said. "No, it's a scarf!" she replied.
- It's hard to play Hide and Seek. Why? Good players are hard to find.
- A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.



"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted.

He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?" The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

Randy moved on to Birthdays and Anniversaries' noting the following:

Ivone DeMarchi – Birthday – March 09

Bob Ritchie – Birthday – March 12

Bob Saunders was called up next to introduce our Guest Speaker, Pam MacDonald, ~ Halton Master Gardener who spoke about Invasive Plant Species and what we can do about them.

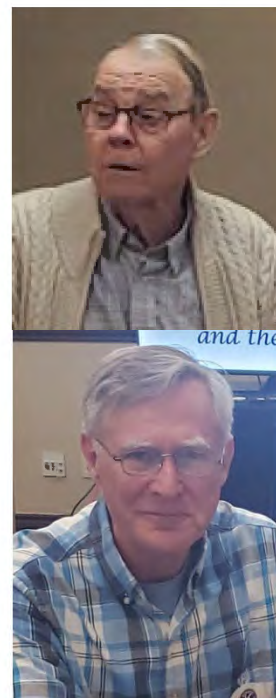


Pam MacDonald of the Halton Region Master Gardeners, opened by saying how welcoming and easy going our members made her feel even though she was going to talk to us about, “Why we should care about invasive plant species”. She introduced her husband Tony Rockingham, who was her Technical Adviser and 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost an “ Invader Crusader”.

Pam outline her Agenda and assured us her intent was not to have us go home and plough under our back yards.

She would define:

- Invasive Plant Species
- Share information about their impact
- Tell us about actions being taken to compat invasive plants
- Ask us to consider what we are willing to do, to address the problem.



Pam also introduced us with terms and definitions that we needed to keep in mind, as we review the information she presented.

- **Native/indigenous** : Plants occurring naturally in a particular region or ecosystem that have evolved in concert with other naturally occurring species. Sugar Maple
- **Alien/Exotic/Introduced:** Non-native plants introduced outside their normal distribution range or with no natural distribution.
- **Invasive Alien Plant:** Non-native plants whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. Norway Maple. (Government of Canada, 2004)

- A **cultivar** is a plant selected by humans, distinguished by shape, habit, or other traits.
- A **nativar** is a selection of a native plant. The selections may be naturally occurring variants or “artificial.”
- People favour plants with **decorative value** over other important functions.





## Your Garden

Look at the beautiful Back yard garden shown below.



**Fernleaf Buckhorn** - problems like cankers, caterpillars, leaf spots, rust, and scale, and in some cases, root rot or root-bound issues.

**Japanese Barberry** - disrupt ecosystems, displace native plants, and increase tick populations, potentially leading to higher risks of Lyme disease

**Burning Bush** - It can completely overtake a natural area, replacing large amounts of native vegetation and reducing biodiversity

**Periwinkle** - invasive nature, ability to choke out all

native plants, and potential for fungal diseases.

By using Native/indigenous plants as an alternative, your garden could look like this:



**Service or Saskatoon berry**, is a small deciduous tree or shrub native to most of Canada. It produces a fruit that resembles blueberries both in appearance and taste.

**Kalm's St Johns Wort** prefers moist, rich, sandy loams but tolerates poor, rocky or wet soils. Drought and salt-tolerant.

**Purple Flowering Raspberry** native to eastern North America, from Nova Scotia west to Ontario and Wisconsin

**Black Chokeberry** a species of shrubs in the rose family native to eastern North America, ranging from Canada to the central United States, from Newfoundland west to Ontario.

**Woodland Strawberry** is a perennial plant that grows naturally throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere, and it produces edible fruits.

## Your Back-Yard and fields

Weeds vs. invasive species

Weeds are plants growing where they are unwanted.

Weeds can be:

- Native (poison ivy)
- Introduced (dandelion)
- Invasive (giant hogweed)
- Not invasive (milkweed)

Ontario Noxious Weed List (25)

- Harm agriculture, livestock, workers
- Milkweeds were removed from the list in **2015**.



Well Behaved Goldenrods and Milkweeds for Gardens

Goldenrods (genus)

- Upland white (*Solidago ptarmicoides*)
- Rough (*Solidago rugosa*)

Milkweeds (genus)

- Purple (*Asclepias purpurascens*)
- Butterfly (*Asclepias Tuberosa*)



I love my peonies.

Most of our vegetables, fruits and herbs are exotic introductions

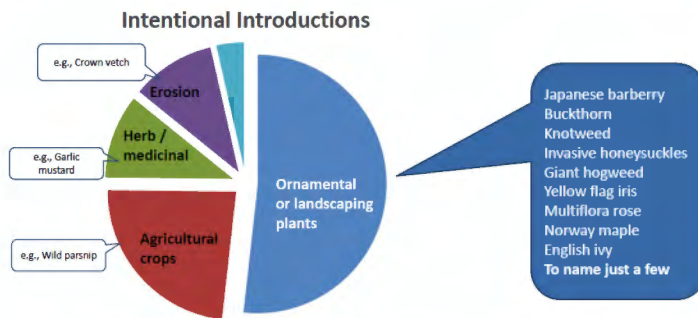
Many beloved perennials are exotic

They may not support native biodiversity but they do not spread or compete with native plant species

This Mint



How do invasive plants arrive?



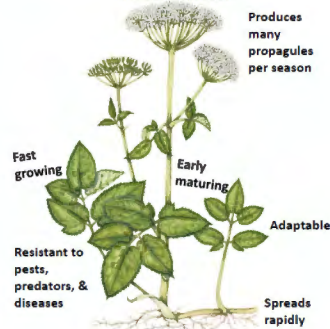
*Invasive Species with Pathway Information (\* 245 of 486 invasive plants – have been introduced both intentionally and unintentionally). Adapted from Canadian Food Inspection Agency, "Invasive Alien Plants in Canada - Technical Report," 2008.*

Why are invasive plants so popular in the nursery trade?

- ✓ Easy to propagate
  - Low cost to produce
- ✓ Grow or spread rapidly
  - Attractive to gardeners
- ✓ Disease and pest resistant
  - Attractive in gardens
- ✓ Adaptable to conditions
  - Gardeners & growers

They are good for sales . . . \$\$\$

Biological traits associated with invasiveness.



Bishop's Goutweed



# Costs of Invasive Plants in Canada are Massive

- Agricultural sector alone:
- \$2.2 billion annually\*
  - Yield loss and control



## Under Reported Costs

Impacts on tourism, fishing, recreation

Impacts on biodiversity

Impacts on animal and human health

Mitigation costs

## Your Forests and Farm Land

More areas that invasive species have impacted.

### Japanese Barberry *Berberis thunbergii*

- Native to Japan and China
- Crowds out native plants
  - Tree seedlings
  - Trilliums
  - Mayapples
- Creates favourable conditions for ticks to breed
- Does not support pollinators or other insects that are critical food sources for birds
- Disrupts/destroys habitat of other wildlife – reptiles, amphibians



Japanese barberry blankets a forest floor near Lyme, Connecticut

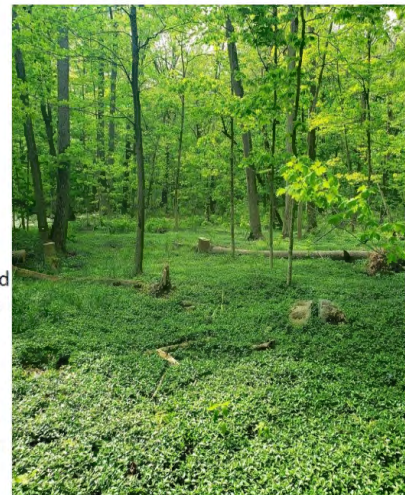


(Pire-Hoodwink-le)  
Because it is so dangerous.



### Periwinkle *Vinca minor*

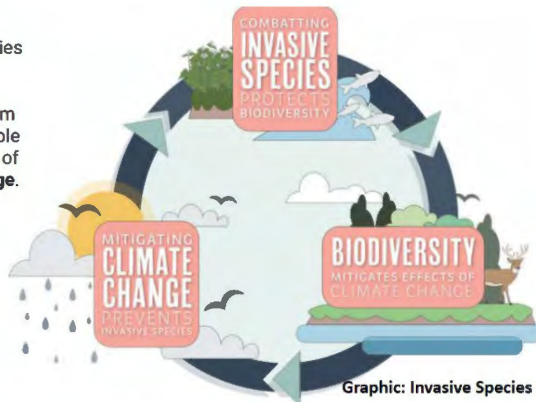
- Native to Europe, northern Africa
- Crowds out native plants
  - Tree seedlings
  - Trilliums
  - Mayapples
- Leaves are toxic to mammalian herbivores
- Leaves are indigestible or toxic to insects and caterpillars: no insects or caterpillars means no birds, reptiles or amphibians
- Flowers do not produce pollen for pollinators



Beamer Memorial Conservation Area  
Grimsby  
May 21, 2021



Invasive species weaken ecosystems and make them more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.



Graphic: Invasive Species Centre



## Actions You Can Take

### As a homeowner and gardener

- Remove invasive plants
- Prioritize ground covers if you are near parks or natural spaces
- When choosing new plants do your homework
- Engage staff at garden centres – ask them to help you choose non invasive plants, query their offerings if they include invasive plants

### As a condo owner

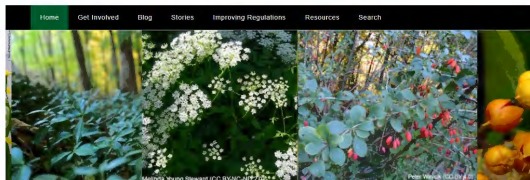
- Speak up to ensure invasive plants are not included in the landscaping scheme

### As a role model

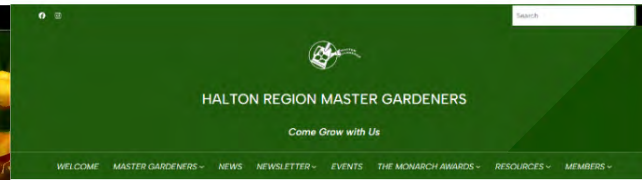
- Encourage your kids and grandkids and others to choose native plants, especially trees and shrubs



Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation



[Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation](#)



[Halton Region Master Gardeners](#)

Pam wrapped up the presentation and thanked everyone for being so attentive. You can find out more about this topic and the two related organizations by clicking on the highlighted links above.

Joanne Murray gave the Clubs official thanks to Pam and acknowledged that, in recognition of her presentation, we have made a donation to a Charity we like to support. That charity is the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation.

Pam had answers several questions at the end of her presentation and agreed to stay and answer questions after the end of the meeting.

President Nancy called for any Announcements or Committee Reports

- President Nancy announced a social event at the Lighthouse Theatre, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2025. It is a Norm Foster's Play "Here on the Flight Path". Note it is the 2:00 PM, matinee. Tickets can be purchase by Credit card. Following is the link to the website: <https://lighthousetheatre.com/>. Once you have purchased your tickets, please be sure to let Pallo Sahota and Nancy Thompson know by email as they will be attempting to organize a Dinner after the Theatre presentation.
- Dave Lewis mentioned that the Trivia Challenge event at the Dunsdon Legion is on Thursday 03-April which is just over 2 weeks away, and suggested you get your Teams in and registered as soon as possible. We currently have 19 teams.

- Leo Vos asked that anyone wishing to help out at the Trivia Challenge should contact him, as we can always use help setting up and managing the event.
- Melanie reminded us that as part of the Kiwanis Kindness Day we are starting next week Thursday 13-March collecting Food and Personal Care items, to be collected weekly at our meeting from now until **Friday 18-April. Kiwanis Kindness Day is Friday 25 April-2025.**
- Dave, in a nod to our celebration to St Patrick's day, and our table decorations recounted an old Irish blessing.  
"May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."

President Nancy thanked all members and Guests and wished everyone well.

Final thought of the day: "Missing someone is sadness wrapped in the blessing of having known them."  
Milton Fields.

If there is nothing else for the good of Kiwanis, we will adjourn this meeting with the ringing of the Bell by Jim Turnbull.

Have a good weekend.

Meeting adjourned

Following are candid pictures from this meeting.





